

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.943
Amateur Radio Newsline #943 12 SEP 1995

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #943 - POSTED 09/10/95

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 768-7447
Houston.....	(713) 362-4650

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie.....	m345;1
GEnie.....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
America Online.....	
Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library	
Delphi.....	
In the ham radio conference	
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You,

NEWSLINE

(*****)

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[943]

(* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *)

(* * * * *)

(* EMERGENCY FUNDING *)

(* * * * *)

(* The following is an important closed circuit advisory. *)

(* Attention all bulletin stations. Newsline is still *)

(* existing hand to mouth and we need your support to survive. *)

(* As we have said many times, the decision whether Newsline *)

(* stays or goes is yours. If you want this service to *)

(* continue, we will need your ongoing financial support. *)

(* The address for the Newsline Support Fund is: *)

(* * * * *)

(* NEWSLINE SUPPORT FUND *)

(* P.O.Box 660937 *)

(* Arcadia, California *)

(* 91066 *)

(* * * * *)

(* This ends the closed circuit with Newsline report *)

(* number 943 for release on Friday, September 8, 1995 to *)
(* follow. *)
(* *)
(* * * * * *)

The following is a QST

Ham radio takes on the disastrous Long Island fire; the FCC may privatize fighting RFI and a special honor for Newsline on Newsline report number 943 coming your way right now!

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NY FIRE HEROES

Ham radio operators on New York's Long Island saw a lot of action as a pair of brush fires became devastating fire storms and ravaged thousands of acres before being contained. The first fire broke out on Monday, August 21st. Due to tinder dry conditions it spread very quickly and became the worst fire disasters to hit the area in almost ninety years.

Over 2,000 fire fighters, some coming from as far away as New Mexico and Washington state were brought in to fight the blaze. And providing primary communications for the fire fighters and relief operators were ARES operators and RACES volunteers. Andrew Feldman, WB2FXN is the District Emergency Coordinator and state RACES Officer for Suffolk County New York:

"We were in operation a total of thirty six hours over the period August 22nd to August 23rd. We had a total of thirty eight hams who participated putting in 398 hours of donated time.

When everything subsided on Wednesday afternoon and we thought we would then start being more normal. One o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, which was August the 24th, we were informed that there was a fire that had developed on the grounds at the Suffolk Community College in Riverhead, which was rapidly moving about three miles wide down towards the West Hampton Beach airport. That fire, there was almost 7,000 acres of Long Island consumed. The county went into a major disaster plan. We had a total of eighty eight volunteers who were mostly from ARES and RACES. There were a few folks who did not belong, believe in it, that rapidly became converted.

These eighty eight hams put in 2,000 hours of volunteered services operating communications between the counties EOC command post, the Red Cross chapter, the Red Cross emergency response vehicles, the fire line and three Red Cross disaster shelters." Feldman

In all, about eighty radio amateurs participated in this

communications emergency. Feldman says years of training and preparation really paid off.

"The training is absolutely mandatory. One has got to develop the culture and respect for emergency services. Since I do have the forum for the moment, I think that every single amateur, it is their responsibility to get involved in local emergency management. To respect the ARRL supported ARES Program. And for the hams, if they feel so inclined, not in the hobby aspect, get really involved with the radio amateurs civil emergency service and support their local emergency management offices. You never know. It's going to happen sooner or later. And the training will just be a tremendous asset. And you will be able to contribute back to your community." Feldman

Much of the communications effort utilized the facilities of three area repeaters. One of these was the WB2DRK repeater operated by the Suffolk Police Amateur Radio Club. The two other two meter repeaters used during the fire emergency. These were the W2DQ machine owned by the Suffolk Amateur Radio Club and the W20QI system operated by the Rock Hill Repeater Association.

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HURRICANE LUIS

Hams throughout the Caribbean are on alert and providing communications as Hurricane Luis makes its way toward the United States. The storm, the largest and most powerful of the 1995 hurricane season has already passed over several islands. On the air reports indicate that Dominica suffered damage along its North coast, Stations on St. Martin report extensive destruction in the waterfront area.

It's 15:00 zulu Tuesday, September 5th. Signing PJ8/G3UWQ, transmitting he said from his boat anchored in Simpson Lagoon, Dutch St. Martin. Luis was thundering towards the island. The winds building. Pulling on the anchor that stood between G3UWQ and rocks.

"George here. Maximum gusts of 100 knots ..." G3UWQ

It's 14.268 Mhz. The United Nations Radio Readiness Net. Stations from all over the Caribbean have one life line now. Ham Radio.

18:12 zulu time. G3UWQ can no longer be copied in Florida. Another station relays the dramatic, frightening words. Abandon Ship.

"PJ8/G3UWQ in Simpson Bay was abandoning ship at 18:12 times up, he was getting thrown into the rocks so he was departing, over."

At dawn, Wednesday the 6th. J87CC reported 90 vessels lost in and around St. Martin. At deadline there was no word on G3UWQ's fate. Only our prayers he will be found alive and well.

A hurricane watch net is active on 14.325 MHz, with additional activities on 14.268 and 14.250 Mhz. Hams are asked to monitor storm related net frequencies, but are asked not to transmit unless requested by a net control operator.

This is a major storm. Ham radio is playing a vital part in hurricane related communications. More on the wrath of hurricane Luis, next week.

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PRIVATE TVI

The FCC says that it is considering privatizing the resolution of radio frequency interference to consumer electronics devices. Under the plan, private repair shops would be used to fix problems in the field.

FCC representatives spelled out the Commission's concept at a recent meeting in Tampa, Florida. The commission says it is not feasible for the it to attempt to resolve these complaints, most of which come from Citizens Band operations.

So they have come up with a new system. Under the proposal, and depending on what the local repair facility found to handle the problem, either the shop would fix the equipment or, in the case of a violation of FCC rules, the service shop would refer the case back to the FCC for possible FCC action. The question of who would pay for these services has not yet been addressed.

The FCC says that over the past several years it has been unofficially out of the RFI business. That parties who contact the FCC about an interference problem are asked to work together toward a solution.

The ARRL was represented at the meeting by several local volunteer officials, in consultation with headquarters Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV.

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NEWSLINE PRODUCER HONORED

Newsline producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has received the highest honor that the American Radio Relay League can bestow. ARRL President Rodney Stafford, KB6ZV has presented Bill with the

ARRL National Certificate of Merit.

The presentation was made to Bill at the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention Grand Banquet on board the Queen Mary Ocean Liner in Long Beach, California the evening of September 2nd. In making the presentation, President Stafford took note of Bill's lifelong service to Amateur Radio through thirty one years as a feature writer and an Associate Editor of 73 Magazine. He also cited the numerous articles authored by WA6ITF that appeared in numerous Amateur Radio publications including the leagues own QST magazine.

Bill was also cited for his contributions to such films and video's as Moving Up to Amateur Radio, The World of Amateur Radio, Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier, SAREX The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, the award winning New World of Amateur Radio and Ham Radio in Space.

The award also takes note Bill as co-founder of the Westlink Radio Network, now called Newsline. Most important, it recognizes WA6ITF as the person who conceived of and instituted the Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award.

This is the second such honor for Bill. Back in 1989 he was named as the recipient of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association's "Radio Amateur of the Year" award for his lifelong contributions to ham radio.

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NEW HOUSTON BUREAU AND DELIVERY LINE

Some more good news. Texas now has its own outgoing Newsline delivery service as well as an incoming local news bureau in Houston. It's all the work of Chris Boone, WB5ITT, who is no stranger to Newsline:

"I was one of the original Texas stations carrying Newsline, also known back then as WestLink, under Jim Hendershot when he was doing the tape cassette exchange. And quite proud to be doing it again, this time offering dial-up service to the Houston metro area." Boone

The number for the Houston automated Newsline outgoing service is area code (713) 362-4650. The service is sponsored by the Entergy Amateur Radio Society and is available right now.

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VIRUS ATTACKS WINDOWS '95

Microsoft Corporation has moved quickly to resolve a problem that has prevented some of customers from installing its new Windows 95 operating system.

According to news reports, Microsoft has set up a toll-free telephone line to provide replacement diskettes for customers who cannot install the system because of undetected viruses already resident on their computers.

Users whose systems are infected get an error message when they insert the second of Windows 95's 13 installation diskettes. The diskette is then ruined by the virus and must be replaced.

The viruses are not targeted at Windows 95 directly but attempt to install themselves on the program's second diskette during the registration procedure. Usually such viruses would be detected only by anti-virus software. But Windows 95 is supplied on 1.77 Megabyte super high-density diskettes and this exposes the disks to infection by the virus programs.

A group product manager for Microsoft says that the virus problem has affected fewer than 1 percent of people who have purchased the \$90 retail version of the Windows 95 upgrade.

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WRTC-1996 ANNOUNCED

A second World Radiosport Team Championship is scheduled to be held the weekend of July 13 and 14, 1996, in the San Francisco Bay area. Sponsored by the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the Northern California Contest Club the competition will run in conjunction with the IARU High Frequency World Championship.

The first WRTC was held in Seattle in 1990. A Washington, D.C. group, headed by the Potomac Valley Radio Club had begun plans for a second such event. This to have been held in the D.C. area in July, 1995. But that event did not materialize.

Now WRTC 96 co-chairman Bruce Sawyer, AA6KX, says that the Northern California Contest Club expects to make a number of changes to the team selection criteria the Potomac group had planned to use.

The WRTC pits two person teams comprised of some of the world's top operators in head to head competition. To emphasize operator ability, each team runs the same amount of power and operates from stations having similar antenna systems and located in the same geographical area.

For more information about WRTC-96, contact Rusty Epps, W6OAT, at 651 Handley Trail, Redwood City, California 94062 or via e-mail at epps@netcom.com.

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MOTOROLA LOSS

A federal court jury has ruled against one of the nation's biggest communications companies in the battle over a police and fire radio system. Motorola and Ericsson-GE have been locked in a

court fight over which company will sell a new system to the City of Birmingham, Alabama.

Ever since city leaders gave the 13 million dollar contract to Motorola, Ericsson-GE has alleged unfair bidding practices. Now a federal jury agrees. And the city may have to start over again in efforts to upgrade its twenty year old system.

When the two companies submitted quotes for an 800 Mhz trunked radio system, Ericsson-GE's bid was almost a million dollars lower. But city leaders chose Motorola anyway. Saying only Motorola can provide the kind of system they need.

Ericsson-GE accuses the city of designing bid specifications so that only Motorola could get the sale. If a federal judge agrees with the jury's decision, the city will have to rebid the contract. An attorney for the city says that means Birmingham may not get a new radio system for another five years.

Deciding this case didn't take long. Jurors announced their verdict August 6th, after deliberating for an hour.

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SAT TIME SHORTAGE

Time on commercial geostationary communications satellite time, especially audio subcarriers on the popular C-band birds is in very short supply. This could be bad news for satellite delivered hobby programs including those about ham radio.

According to the August edition of TV broadcast Engineering magazine, there is now a state of alarm in the satellite industry over the diminishing availability of C-band time. This is due to recent failures in attempted launches of new C-band satellites coupled with an increasing demand by distributors and new programming services for airtime.

Global Access Satellite Services says that it predicted last year that if all the C-band capable spacecraft were launched and if all worked as designed, that there would have been a fifty percent reduction in the recent demand for satellite time.

But several satellites suffered launch failures. Others have been delayed and are waiting for rides into space. The bottom line is that many satellite users are now buying up anything on C-band that they can get. This, regardless of the time of day or the satellite. And like any other commodity, as satellite time becomes less available, its cost goes up and those willing to pay the highest prices are given first choice.

And with prices high and time scarce, the first who are going to feel the sting are the occasional user. Those who use commercial satellites for the narrowcasting of low budget special interest programming to target audience groups.

Ironically, most of the recreational radio, satellite and computer hobbyist talk shows reach their listeners and viewers using the geostationary birds. These will definitely be among the first to disappear if the C-band crunch continues into 1996.

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DX SUNSPOT

In DX, word that astronomers at the California Institute of Technology say they have identified the first new sunspot in what could be the start of the next sunspot cycle. Scientists at Caltech's Big Bear Solar Observatory in Big Bear City, California, photographed the spot on August 12th.

The Caltech researchers say that the sun has been in a quiet period through much of 1994 and this year, with a few spots showing up near the equator. The new sunspot appeared at a solar latitude of 21 degrees, and its magnetic polarity is opposite to that seen over the last decade. This say scientists is a key to identifying it as the manifestation of the start of a new cycle.

Caltech says that they expected an early beginning to Cycle 23, but not this early. The researchers say that sunspots in the new cycle should rapidly become more common and reach a high level of activity in 1998 or 1999.

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DX A92

In other DX news, Bahrain as A92MM, has been active on 20 meter SSB. QSL him at Box 116, Manama, Bahrain.

And, if you need a YC contact word that YB2ARW is active weekends on 17 and 20 meters around 07:00 UTC and is looking for the West Coast of the United States. He is also QRV daily on 20 meters around 12:00 UTC.

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NEWSCHANNEL 5

Newsline and West Palm Beach Florida's Newschannel 5 Infolines have celebrated a year of service together.

One year ago this month local television station WPTV Channel 5 in West Palm Beach donated an interactive telephone line to local amateur radio operators. Line 1 is local club news, line 2 contains Newsline. And it's the Newsline broadcast that's receiving much of the attention. Each week Henry Felton, WA4HXZ records Newsline off satellite, feeds it to InfoLines and that makes the broadcast available anytime 24 hours a day via telephone. Newschannel 5 InfoLines reports more than 600 calls a

month connecting to hear the broadcast. And as word spreads the service is gaining in popularity. WPTV Channel 5 General Manager Bill Brooks says he is delighted with the success. Sez Brooks, "We donated the line because we rely on amateur radio operators, especially during the hurricane season down here. For us to repay them with the use of these free interactive telephone lines is the least we can do. In fact" sez Brooks, "If this success continues, we will give them as many lines as they want."

If you are ever in South Florida, the number to dial to access the service is area code (407) 684-INFO. To access Newsline enter the code 960 at the prompt.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

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